



Count Your Smiling Faces

A Statewide Dental Screening for Kindergarten and 3rd Grade Children

2002 Oral Health Needs Assessment

In 2001-2002, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Division of Oral Health conducted a statewide dental screening to have a picture of the dental health of Kindergarten and 3rd grade children in South Carolina. This information has been used both at the state and community level to improve the oral health status of children.

Key findings from the 2002 Oral Health Needs Assessment:

- About half (51.6%) of the children screened had experienced tooth decay
- 32.2% of the children screened had untreated tooth decay.
- Only 20.3% of 3rd grade children screened had at least one permanent molar with a dental sealant. The Healthy People 2010 Objective is 50%.
- 20.7% of children screened required early dental care (within 1 month)
- 11.4% required urgent dental care (within 24 hours)

You can find more information about the 2002 Oral Health Needs Assessment at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/mch/oral/index.htm>

Raising awareness about the importance of a *healthy mouth to a healthy body* and increasing access to dental services

There have been tremendous efforts throughout this state both at the state level and the community level to improve the oral health status of South Carolina's children.

Why conduct another OHNA?

In sense, the *Count Your Smiling Faces* Survey is one way to see if the oral health of children has improved in South Carolina. To see if what we all are doing is working!

What will DHEC do with this information?

DHEC will use the findings of the *Count Your Smiling Faces* Survey assessment to evaluate the State's preventive oral health programs, determine the need for additional dental programs, and describe the oral health of South Carolina's children. This information will be available publicly to partners interested in improving oral health.